

The Cave (Fort Bourbon)
North side of South Pass Avenue
near Price Street
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-32

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

THE CAVE
(FORT BOURBON)HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
5-

Location: North side of South Pass Avenue, near Price Street,
South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South
Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680920.4703920.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: Preserved as historic structure by Wyoming Recreation
Commission, and used for storage.

Statement of
Significance: This is one of the oldest structures in the town and
was constructed ca. 1868 as a storage area for whiskey
and to protect women and children during Indian raids.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1868.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property:
Lot 91 on North side of South Pass Avenue, near Price Street,
South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The Cave was built on the property of Sam Fairfield. It was dug into the hillside and was constructed of bricks made by the kiln at South Pass City. It had a dirt roof. It was used to store alcoholic beverages and possibly as shelter for the women and children in case of an Indian raid. In 1893, the Cave was owned by W. T. Meadows, Jno Anderson, Ed Carns and J. B. Irvin. This group sold the Wolverine Lode Claim, on which the Cave stood, to Barney Tibbals in 1896. He sold the property to Charles Van Sickle in 1898. Van Sickle, in 1899, sold the property to John Spry. In 1900, Spry turned the property over to the Federal Gold Mining Company of which he was president. In 1901, the Federal Gold Mining Company sold the property to Mrs. Janet Smith, John Sherlock,

William Sherlock and Peter Sherlock. Mrs. Janet Smith died in 1923 leaving her part of South Pass City to be divided between Peter Sherlock, Jennie Sherlock, John Sherlock, William Sherlock and Anna Tibbals. John Sherlock died in 1936 leaving as heirs Lulu Sherlock, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, and Donald Sherlock. Janet Sherlock died in 1938 leaving as heirs Anna Tibbals, Janet Tibbals and James Tibbals. Peter Sherlock died in 1947 leaving as heirs William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, Janett Payne, Norman Smith, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, Donald Sherlock and Lulu Topham. In 1948 and 1949, James Sherlock, for \$10 and other considerations, bought the various shares of South Pass City from Norman Smith, Janett Payne, Richard Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, James Tibbals, Donald Sherlock, Lulu Topham, William Sherlock and Janet Smith. He then sold the town to Fred Stratton. In 1955, Stratton sold the town to Mr. and Mrs. John Woodring. In 1966, the Woodrings sold the property to the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission, Inc. The Corporation turned the property over to the Old South Pass Historical Preserve in 1967. This group was phased out by the Wyoming Legislature in 1969, when they placed control of South Pass City under the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

4. Alterations and additions: In 1936, a sixteen foot concrete room was added to the front of the structure, as well as a new roof.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photograph file, Wyoming Recreation Commission; Cheyenne, Wyoming.
2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for Township 29, Fremont County Courthouse; Laramie, Wyoming.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City, Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Having been built into the side of the large hill just to the north of South Pass Avenue near Price Street, this structure was the most secure structure during the gold rush days of the 1869's and 1870's.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular structure is approximately 17' x 43' deep.
2. Foundations: None.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The exposed exterior walls on the front and sides of the 1930 addition are concrete painted white. There are vertical boards on the front gable.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick-faced earthen walls in original rear portion, stone and concrete bearing walls in 1930 addition. Logs span the short dimension of the rear section and are covered with earth. Log beams form the gable.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is a wooden doorway and door in the center of the south (front) wall.
 - b. Windows and shutters: One window on south (front) wall and one window on east (side) wall. Each window is a six-light awning sash.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The exposed gable roof of the 1930 addition has a corrugated metal covering. Ridge slopes up from front to rear of structure. The roof of the original portion is earth.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: There are two rooms in the structure. The front room (into which you enter) was built in the 1930's. The rear room (built into the hill) was built ca. 1868.

2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Although the present floor is dirt there is evidence of some wood flooring along the side walls of the front room.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Front and side walls of the front room are white painted concrete. Rear wall is whitewashed random rubble stone. The front wall of the rear room is whitewashed random rubble stone. The remaining walls are red brick. The ceiling in the front room is exposed boards. The ceiling in the rear room is unfinished hand-hewn lodgepole pine logs.
5. Doorways and doors: A heavy iron door with security hardware is located in the center of the wall between the two rooms and may have been the original entrance door.
6. Mechanical equipment: Electric lights have been added.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located in the center of the original town on South Pass Avenue, the structure faced 25 degrees east of south; and, with the hill around it, provided security for women and children in case of Indian attack.

Prepared by J. William Rudd, Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.